



SEE YOU THERE

May 2023

Belmond's El Encanto

is perched up on a hill with phenomenal views of downtown Santa Barbara and the ocean. A short 5 minute drive in a courtesy shuttle and you are in the heart of downtown. I loved the Funk Zone with a distinct trendy feel, steps from the beach. Lots to see and do in this area and the traditional downtown.

About 15 minutes drive from downtown Santa Barbara is the **Ritz-Carlton Bacara**. Beachfront, this larger resort offers numerous buildings with various accommodation styles. They offer a new Club Lounge to enjoy with food and snacks throughout the day including a happy hour selection. A massive spa, multiple pools, several dining outlets, lots of activities... you won't want to leave.

I was long overdue for a road trip to explore some of my clients' favourite spots as well as some newbies.

Santa Barbara has so much to offer, I was smitten for choice! It is not hard to see why people with means head to this understated, yet absolutely stunning part of California often referred to as the American Riviera. I mean, if its good enough for Oprah...



Opening on New Year's Eve 1918, El Encanto was carefully restored to highlight the original Spanish-colonial and Californian craftsman styles. With a mix of suites, bungalows and rooms spread between 7 acres of garden you can enjoy privacy and beauty.



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If you know me you know I absolutely LOVE animals.
Dogs, safari...
Llamas & Alpacas!

Spotlight on Ojai Valley Inn



Nestled in the bohemian enclave of Ojai, California is the historic and luxurious retreat called **Ojai Valley Inn**. Opening in 1923 this resort is an institution with a loyal following for good reason. They continuously raise the bar with consistent renovations and improvements maximizing these special grounds.

The valley we now call Ojai was settled by the Ancient Chumash Indians spanning more than 10,000 years ago. They believed that the valley holds mystical powers and that a magnification of energy exists exuding a peaceful sacredness that can be felt. This energy that first drew the Chumash to the valley has been celebrated through the years and many believe today that Ojai is a 'vortex' - an unseen force that concentrates energy. Some equate this vortex to the valley's unusual positioning of the mountain range that runs East to West, and that this helps hem geological tremors and atmospheric energy. Others point to geology and that the stratified mountain rocks inlaid with quartz can harness energy, transmitting it along lines like subway trains filled with good vibrations. The Pink Moment, a rare and magical moment that draws thousands of visitors to Ojai every year happens as the fading sunset creates a brilliant shade of pink for several minutes on the Topatopa bluffs - over 6,000 feet above sea level. Whether you believe in this energy or not - there is something about the Ojai Valley that cannot be described - but can be felt - and the only way to explain it, is to visit for yourself. I got close to Ojai and I was not sure what I was getting into because you are in the middle of nowhere until just like that, the 'feeling' hit me. A perfect mix of old and new Ojai Valley Inn is really something special.



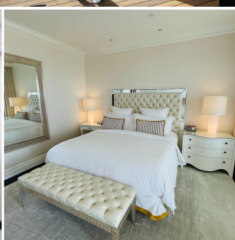
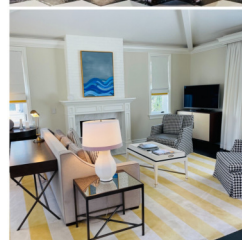
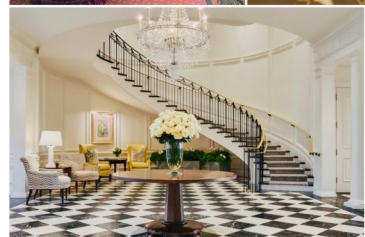
Also famous for the culinary scene, they host various food and wine events in the brand new Farm House (left). Coming up is their guest chef series this spring and summer.



Way too much to mention but I wanted to highlight the really fun bee keeping experience with their local bee keeper Julie. Educational and so interesting followed by a honey tasting experience. *Photos on the bottom left.* A must do! Ojai Valley Inn can keep you and/or your family busy for a week! You need at least 3 nights to scratch the surface and if you are a golfer you will need that week.



Guests are treated to a luxurious welcome as soon as you arrive at the lobby foyer at the elegant **Rosewood Miramar Beach**. With direct beach access, multiple restaurants and bars with varied levels of formality, from relaxed beachside experiences to traditional omakase at AMA Sushi and MICHELIN-star oceanfront dining at Caruso's. An absolute gem with glamorous retail therapy options like Brunello Cucinelli and Goop! Gorgeous pools, a fun ice cream shop and the only beachside food & beverage service on the west coast. Sense, the spa received a Five-Star rating in Forbes Travel Guide's 2022 Star Ratings for the third consecutive year. Rosewood is a well known name for a reason and you need to experience this to understand the hype!



I treated myself to a client experience... a private visit to a special ranch. The herd of llamas and alpacas are free to roam during the day living alongside the ranch's herd of prized angus females and calves. They graze under the beautiful oak trees wandering and are always curious to say hello to visitors. I met with the owners of the Ranch who are truly wonderful, giving these animals their best life and run their ranch responsibly with regenerative principals. A cause I certainly believe in and fully support. This experience is fun and educational, perfect for families and outdoor fun. They also have lots of other animals to interact with. Highly recommended!



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